

Spotlight






on Student Assessment and Accountability

What's New


April 16, 2015


Quick Links ... take you directly to articles

- Before You Dial the Call Center . . .
- Enabling Text-to-Speech (TTS) 
- Select Text–Paragraph Item Clarification
- Important Notice for Schools with 8th Graders Taking the Online M-STEP ELA with VSL 
- M-STEP Calculator Policy
- M-STEP Resumed Testing Policy
- MI-Access P/SI Answer Document is Online
- MI-Access P/SI Scoring Document Update
- MI-Access Administration Resources
- OTT for Designated Supports 
- WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports PD – May 21
- FAME Project Now Accepting New Coach Applications
- Spring 2016 SAT Transition

Important Dates and Reminders

Recently Asked Questions

Key:  information Tech Coordinators also need to know

 supports and accommodations information

360,823

test sessions completed
in the first 3 days of testing!

GREAT JOB!

Before You Dial the Call Center . . .

With the first week of testing underway for M-STEP and MI-Access, the call centers have been experiencing high call volumes. We apologize for any delays you may have experienced in getting assistance. In order to expedite assistance on your question, MDE has created a document that may answer it without you having to dial the call center, or if your question is NOT answered in the document, it will direct you to the correct call center person. Highlights of what you can find in this document include:

Before Dialing the Call Center

- **eDIRECT Support** – documents and mini-modules to assist you on creating test sessions, printing test tickets, and adding accommodations in eDIRECT
- Instructions on **obtaining access to eDIRECT**
- Steps on what to do if a **student is missing in eDIRECT**
- Setting up **student supports and accommodations**
- **Password reset** information

When Dialing the Call Center

- When to choose **Option 1, 2, or 3**

You can access this document on the M-STEP and MI-Access websites at www.michigan.gov/mstep and www.michigan.gov/mi-access under *What's New*.

► Sign up for Spotlight at: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new>. Enter your email address and select Spotlight under Student Assessment.

Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

Enabling Text-To-Speech (TTS)

We have received several phone calls regarding audio for text-to-speech. TTS is NOT enabled by default on your TSM. This needs to be enabled and content updated to download audio files to your TSM (See Figure 1). The same is true for Video Sign Language (VSL). Please work with your technology staff to ensure TTS is enabled (and VSL if needed). If you need additional assistance, please call (877) 560-8378, option 2.

When administering the test, you should tell the students to let you know whether the speed is too fast or slow, or the if the volume needs to be adjusted. There are controls under the *Options* menu (as shown in Figure 2) to adjust these properly for each student.

Figure 1

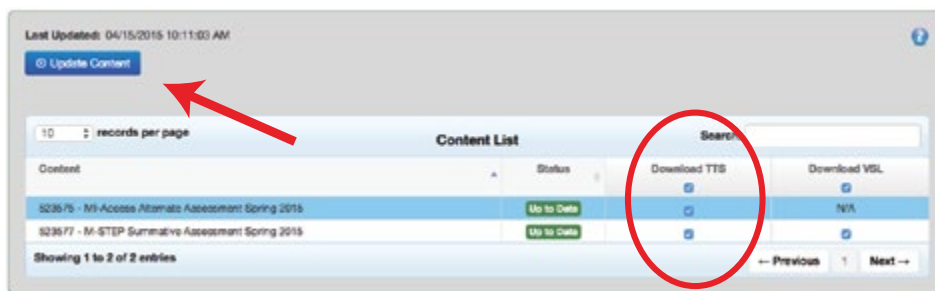
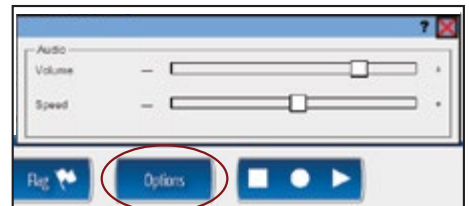


Figure 2



Select Text–Paragraph Item Clarification

On the Online ELA M-STEP, students will encounter many new technology-enhanced items. One item type, the **select text-paragraph** item, is drawing a bit of confusion from the field. These items have been reviewed and are functioning as intended. In this type of item, students are presented with a paragraph of information, such as an excerpt from a reading passage. Students are directed to select one or more sentences from the paragraph. **Students should not expect that every sentence is selectable.** Remind students to read each item *carefully*.

Please review the sample item sets for a demonstration of this item type and functionality. For example, in the grade 8 ELA sample set, item #10 follows this format. Sample item sets can be accessed directly through INSIGHT if you have your TSM/INSIGHT software

installed. If not, copy and paste this link into Google Chrome – <https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi/ott1>. It only works in the Chrome browser.

Important Notice for Schools with 8th Graders Taking the Online M-STEP ELA with Video Sign Language (VSL)

Educators planning to administer the online 8th grade M-STEP ELA assessment to students with the **Video Sign Language (VSL)** enabled, **MUST** contact the Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA) **before** assessing students. Please contact Jennifer Paul at 517-335-3967 for directions that must be explicitly followed at the time of this assessment.

M-STEP Calculator Policy

Students in grades 6, 7, 8, and 11 will use the calculator embedded within the online delivery engine. The mathematics Online Test Session is administered as one part. The test begins with items that **do not** permit use of a calculator, so the calculator will not be available in the toolbar for those items. Students need to be sure they have answered ALL the non-calculator items **BEFORE** moving on to the calculator-allowed section. Once students begin the calculator-permitted section, they will **NOT** be able to access the items in the non-calculator section. Students get a warning that they cannot go back when they are leaving the non-calculator items. Please let your students know they must finish all the non-calculator items **BEFORE** they move on to the embedded calculator items.

For more information regarding the calculator policy on the M-STEP online and paper/pencil mathematics tests, please read the Spring 2015 M-STEP Calculator Policy located on the M-STEP website under the *Current Assessment Information* section or click on this link http://michigan.gov/documents/mde/NEW_Spring_2015_M-STEP_Calculator_Policy_483986_7.pdf.

M-STEP Resumed Testing Policy

To provide additional flexibility to schools to meet student needs, MDE has decided to not lock tests at the end of the instructional day, allowing students to complete unfinished tests on another day if more time is needed.

If for any reason a student cannot complete a portion of the test during the scheduled time (online or paper/pencil), please see the *M-STEP Resumed Testing Policy Update* located on the M-STEP web page at www.michigan.gov/mstep under *Current Assessment Administration*.

NOTE: Schools with students that submitted incomplete tests prior to Thursday, 04/16/2015 may complete an Incident Report requesting those tests be unlocked. The individual student UICs and Test Sessions must be provided in the Incident Report.

MI-Access P/SI Answer Document is Online

As outlined in an earlier *Spotlight on Assessment* edition, staff that are administering the MI-Access Participation or Supported Independence assessments will do so using picture cards, instructional materials, and activity-based observations as they have always done. However, the students scoring information will be entered using an online portal, rather than a paper answer document.

A description of this process, including instructions and a link, can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/P-SI_Online_Answer_Document_-_Instructions_final_481663_7.pdf?20150414091734.

In addition, a video tutorial can be found by going to <https://mi.drcedirect.com>. You do not need an account to access the training program. Click **Documents**. Then under **Administration**, choose **MI-Access Alternate Assessment 2015**, and click **Show Documents**. Then click on page 2 and you will see a module toward the bottom of the page titled **MI-Access Online Answer Document**. Click the video play link to watch the mini-module. This module is approximately four minutes long.

MI-Access P/SI Scoring Document Update

For primary and shadow administrators who are administering the Participation and Supported Independence tests, you may find that the scoring documents are missing the item 6 row on the sheet. You may either create a line for that item or you can print a corrected form, which is located on the MI-Access web page at www.michigan.gov/mi-access under the *Assessment Window Information* section.

MI-Access Administration Resources

Unlike the M-STEP, MI-Access does NOT have written test directions that administrators must read when administering the tests. However, the online Test Administrator Manual (TAM) provides administrators

(Continued on next page)

Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability

guidance on how to administer the student-facing assessments. The Online TAM is located on the MI-Access webpage at www.michigan.gov/mi-access and in eDirect at <https://mi.drcedirect.com> under *Documents*.

OTT for Designated Supports

Students and educators have an opportunity in advance of testing to try out the functionality of the INSIGHT system for students testing online who may need

- text-to-speech (TTS);
- video sign language (VSL);
- masking;
- color chooser;
- contrasting text; or
- the online stacked Spanish translation form for mathematics.

In order for educators and students to view sample items with these supports turned on, the INSIGHT software and the Testing Site Manager (TSM) **must** be installed. Please go to <https://mi.drcedirect.com/> for more information on test setup and to review the mini-modules **Accessing the Online Tools Training** and **Tools for Online Testing**, which can be found under *General Information* and *Documents*.

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports Professional Development – May 21

We are pleased to announce that the Office of Standards & Assessment (OSA) will be offering a WIDA Score Reports Training on May 21, 2015 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports PD provides specific information on students' academic English language proficiency. Participants will examine the different types of reports, their connection to the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, and how these reports can serve as a tool to initiate discussion on

instruction. This workshop is appropriate for K-12 staff invested in the education of Michigan's English Learners (ELs).

This one-day in-person training will be held at the Michigan Library and Historical Center, located at 702 W Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915. (Directions will be provided in the confirmation email.) This opportunity is open to the first 40 respondents. If you would like to participate, please register at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WIDA_Score_Report_Training.

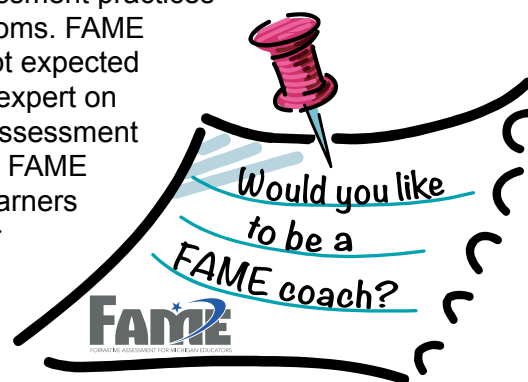
Note: Lunch and overnight accommodations will not be provided.

FAME Project Now Accepting New Coach Applications

Deadline is May 1, 2015

The Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators (FAME) project is entering its 8th year and is seeking interested educators who would like to lead a learning team of teachers to explore, implement, and reflect on formative assessment practices in their classrooms. FAME coaches are not expected to be the local expert on the formative assessment process, rather FAME coaches are learners along with their learning team.

More information on the FAME project and access to the 2015–16 New FAME Coach Application is available on the DAS Formative Assessment Process page at www.michigan.gov/formativeassessment under *What's New*. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 1, 2015. If you have questions regarding FAME, please contact Kimberly Young, MDE/DAS at youngk1@michigan.gov or 517-373-0988.



Spring 2016 SAT Transition

The MDE has announced that it will transition to using the SAT® as part of the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) in Spring 2016.

The SAT is accepted at all Michigan universities and is already a familiar exam to many in the state. The exam keeps pace with what colleges are looking for today — measuring the skills required for success in the 21st century. It focuses on the few durable things that evidence shows matter most for college and career success, and reflects what Michigan students are already learning in their classrooms.

To make it easier for students to succeed, the College Board and Khan Academy are offering free, personalized test practice to all students starting in June 2015. Michigan students and their families will also benefit from the scholarship opportunities connected to College Board assessments, as well as the college application fee waivers they provide. In case you missed it, the College Board also has a full-length PSAT/NMSQT® practice form available at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-suite-assessments/practice/practice-tests>. The PSAT/NMSQT is tightly aligned with the redesigned SAT and provides a chance to check in on student progress.

The College Board is working closely with the MDE to develop a clear plan and next steps for Michigan's transition to the SAT in the spring of 2016. For the most up-to-date information on the transition, including key upcoming dates, you can visit <http://collegeboard.org/michigan>.

Important Dates and Reminders

Upcoming important dates, recent topics, etc.



April 2015

M-STEP

- **NOW – April 27, 2015—Grades 5, 8, and 11:** Additional paper/pencil materials can be ordered on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.** *Note: For schools testing online, there is no need to place an order unless a student needs paper/pencil materials because of a designated support or an accommodation that cannot be supported online.*
- **April 13 – May 1, 2015:** M-STEP testing window for grades 5 and 8
- **April 13 – June 5, 2015:** M-STEP testing window for grade 11
- **NOW – May 11, 2015—Grades 4 and 7:** Additional paper/pencil materials can be ordered on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.** *Note: For schools testing online, there is no need to place an order unless a student needs paper/pencil materials because of a designated support or an accommodation that cannot be supported online.*
- **April 27 – May 15, 2015:** M-STEP testing window for grades 4 and 7

MI-Access

- **NOW – May 22, 2015:** Paper/pencil materials not ordered previously can now be ordered on the Additional Materials Order screen on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.**

Note: For ALL MI-Access FI students being assessed in ELA: Expressing Ideas, this test is available **only** in a paper/pencil format. Materials must be ordered through the secure site. *Reminder: Expressing Ideas is now assessed in all grades.*

- **April 13 – May 29, 2015:** MI-Access testing window for all grades

M-STEP and MI-Access

- **NOW:** eDIRECT is available for District and Building Coordinators to manage test sessions, set individual student supports and accommodations, and print test tickets. Supports and accommodations must be selected in eDIRECT before printing test tickets for the applicable students. **Printed test tickets are SECURE materials.**

May 2015

M-STEP

- **May 4 – June 1, 2015—Grades 3 and 6:** Additional paper/pencil materials can be ordered on the Secure Site. **Please check your initial material order received BEFORE placing an additional material order.** *Note: For schools testing online, there is no need to place an order unless a student needs paper/pencil materials because of a designated support or an accommodation that cannot be supported online.*
- **May 18 – June 5, 2015:** M-STEP testing window for grades 3 and 6

► To access previous Spotlight editions, go to http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_31168-280911--,00.html.

Recently Asked Questions

Should students taking the MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) assessments also participate in the M-STEP Classroom Activities and Performance Tasks for mathematics and ELA?

FI Students may participate in the Classroom Activity (CA) if they are in the general education classroom at the time that the lesson is presented. However, the CA is not related to the MI-Access assessment as there is no Performance Task on the MI-Access assessments.

Do students taking the M-STEP Braille ELA and mathematics tests use the online or paper/pencil Classroom Activity?

For the ELA and mathematics Braille tests, you will need to administer the paper/pencil Classroom Activity and use the paper/pencil listening script or CD. You should also have accompanying paper/pencil Assessment Administrator for Braille Booklet (AABB).

► *Prior Recently Asked Questions can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Recently_Asked_Questions_470957_7.pdf.*

Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.